

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 17

WASHINGTONIAN MAGAZINE  
December 1979

## CAPITAL COMMENT

### HOTLINE

#### Daiquiris in the Destruction Device

Pot, booze, and porn movies in a top-security cryptographic vault. Smuggling of secret documents past security guards in the bottom of a flower vase. A nymphomaniac secretary with a yen to make love amidst some of the nation's most highly classified spy machinery. Low-grade James Bond stuff? No, these were true goings-on at the Los Angeles facility of TRW Corporation, a key contractor for the CIA's satellite-monitoring program. The revelations come in a new book, *The Falcon and the Snowman*, about the two California youths who photographed hundreds of secret documents and sold them to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. Written by Robert Lindsey, Los Angeles correspondent for the *New York Times*, the book describes slapstick security procedures at TRW—even though the facility was a nerve center for transmission of ultra-secret CIA messages. CIA's security division overhauled procedures after disclosure of the spy scheme in 1977. So no longer can playful spooks use the office document-destruction device to blend daiquiris. The two spies, one a former TRW employee, the other a dope dealer, are now serving long prison terms. A good read.

\*\*\*\*\*

William Colby, former CIA director now practicing law in Washington, maintains that the next "intelligence revolution" will be the creation by international corporations of their own intelligence operations.

\*\*\*\*\*

Critic Bernard De Voto once wrote that a McCarthy-period congressional report was "useful if one wishes to grow paranoia from seed." Writer Deborah Davis takes political horticulture even further in *Katharine the Great*, a new biography of *Post* publisher Kay Graham. Davis is probably the first person in Washington to credit the CIA for helping the *Post* acquire the *Times-Herald*, *Newsweek*, and the WTOP stations. Why the CIA interest in the *Times-Herald*? Because the newspaper "maintained a bank of dossiers that it routinely made available to the FBI, the CIA's rival in domestic Cold War intelligence." Davis also suspects that executive editor Ben Bradlee first donned cloak-and-dagger during a brief 1940s stint with the American Civil Liberties Union, and that agency-man Richard Helms used Bradlee as a shield "to mask the agency's interest in the *Post* buying *Newsweek*." In sum, Davis sees spooks almost everywhere.